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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/001,974	12/05/2001	Hiroto Yoshii	35.G2962	1370
5514	7590	09/30/2004	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			CARTER, AARON W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	
DATE MAILED: 09/30/2004				

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/001,974	YOSHII ET AL.
	Examiner Aaron W Carter	Art Unit 2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2002.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-7, 11-17, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 4,086,567 to Crane et al. (“Crane”).

As to claim 1, Crane disclose an information processing apparatus which processes data input through a coordinate input device, comprising:

Detecting means which detects the sampling rate of the coordinate input device (column 1, lines 48-49 and column 3, lines 58-60 wherein sample counter corresponds detecting means); and

Standardizing means which standardizes writing data which is input through the coordinate input device based on the sampling rate detected by said detecting means (column 7, lines 12-37, wherein based on the samples counted the input signature segment samples is expanded or decreased).

As to claim 2, Crane discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the standardized writing data generated from said standardizing means is used for signature authentication (column 1, lines 6-8).

As to claim 3, Crane discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the standardized writing data generated from said standardizing means is used for handwritten character recognition (column 1, lines 6-8 and 34-36, wherein signature verification corresponds to handwritten character recognition, see also column 11, lines 60-65)

As to claim 4, Crane discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the standardized writing data generated from said standardizing means is used as a stroke database (column 7, lines 12-20, wherein the normalized samples are signature segments which corresponds to stroke data which is stored in memory or a database).

As to claim 5, Crane discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the standardizing writing data from said standardizing means is used as the output for the writing data which is input through the coordinate input device (column 2, lines 35-38 and column 1, lines 42-68).

As to claim 6, Crane discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said standardizing means decimates a group of point in stroke data generated from the

writing data based on the sampling rate (column 7, lines 12-20, wherein decrease the number of digital samples corresponds to decimate).

As to claim 7, Crane discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said standardizing means interpolates a group of points in stroke data generated from the writing data based on the sampling rate (column 7, lines 12-20, wherein expanding the number of digital samples corresponds to interpolate).

As to claims 11-17, please refer to the rejections made for claims 1-7 respectively.

As to claims 21 and 23 please refer to the rejections made for claim 1 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 8 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane in view of USPN 6,549,675 to Chatterjee.

As to claims 8 and 18 Crane discloses an information processing apparatus/method according to claims 1 and 10.

Crane does not disclose expressly wherein said detecting means includes display means which displays a graphical pattern for sampling rate detection on an input screen of the coordinate input device.

Chatterjee discloses wherein said detecting means includes display means which displays a graphical pattern for sampling rate detection on an input screen of the coordinate input device (column 1, lines 11-41).

Crane & Chatterjee are combinable because they are from same art of image processing specifically signature verification.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the signature verification process disclosed by Crane with the display means disclosed by Chatterjee.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that the display means disclosed by Chatterjee provides a digitized interpretation of the handwriting to be authenticated (column 1, lines 11-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Crane with Chatterjee to obtain the invention as specified in claims 8 and 18.

5. Claims 9, 10, 19, 20, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane in view of USPN 5,706,427 to Tabuki.

6. As to claim 10, Crane discloses verification means comprising:

Receiving means which receives standardized writing data being made by standardizing writing data which is input through the coordinate input means in the information processing apparatus based on the sampling rate of the coordinate input means (column 7, lines 12-37, wherein based on the samples counted the input signature segment samples is expanded or decreased); and

Signature verifying means which performs signature verification based on the standardized writing data received by said receiving means (column 1, lines 64-68 and column 11, lines 8-33).

Crane does not disclose expressly discloses a verification server linked to an information processing apparatus having different coordinate input means over a network.

However, Tabuki discloses a verification server linked to an information processing apparatus having different coordinate input means over a network (column 2, lines 24-34 and column 3, lines 51-66, wherein user hosts corresponds to different input means and application server corresponds to an information processing apparatus).

Crane & Tabuki are combinable because they are from the same field of image processing, specifically signature authentication.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the signature verification process disclosed by Crane with a verification server as taught by Tabuki.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that by establishing on the network, separate from the application server a verification server to perform verification processes each application server is freed from the need to keep valid authentication data for the authentication of the user host and the need to have functions for verification (column 3, lines 55-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Crane with Tabuki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

As to claim 9, please refer to the rejections made for claim 10 above.

As to claim 19, please refer to the rejections made for claim 10 above.

As to claim 20, please refer to the rejections made for claim 10 above.

As to claim 22, please refer to the rejections made for claim 10 above.

As to claim 24, please refer to the rejections made for claim 10 above.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

USPN 5,864,296 to Upton discloses standardization based on sampling rate.

USPN 4,190,820 to Crane et al. discloses standardization based on sampling rate.

USPN 6,101,280 to Reynolds discloses the importance of a consistent sampling rate.

USPN 6,148,093 to McConnell et al. discloses the importance of a consistent sampling rate.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron W Carter whose telephone number is (703) 306-4060. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am - 3:30 am (Mon. - Fri.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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